#10 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
MARVEL
MARVEL SUPER HEROES
SECRET WARS
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FEB
AGAINST THE BEYONDER. . . TO THE DEATH!
ZECK

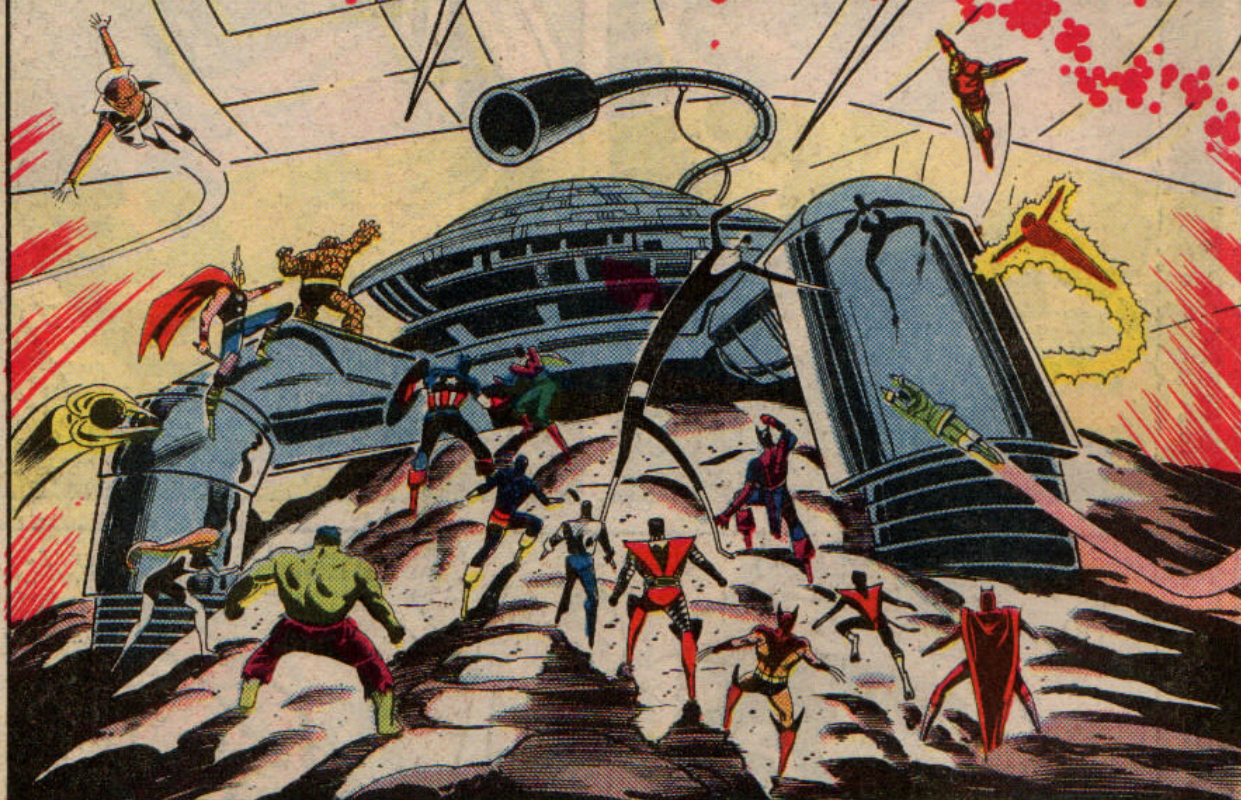
Transported to a strange planet by a force from beyond the universe, the mightiest Super Heroes and Super-Villains of all have been gathered to fight the ultimate war. After fighting many epic battles, the heroes were drawn into an all-out, desperate struggle with the mighty *Galactus*, devourer of worlds. Now, though they have successfully driven Galactus away, they find that their seeming victory has only sealed their fate.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS™

DEATH TO THE BEYONDER!

"WE'RE DEAD MEN!"

THOSE WERE THE WORDS OF REED RICHARDS, ALSO KNOWN AS **MISTER FANTASTIC**, WHEN, MOMENTS AGO, GALACTUS ESCAPED THIS MOUNTAINTOP BATTLE-SITE.

GALACTUS FLED TO HIS **HOME-WORLD**, A CONSTRUCT SO HUGE THAT IT FILLS THE SKY THOUGH IT ORBITS MANY MILLIONS OF MILES DISTANT. NOW CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HIS HEROIC COMRADES CAN ONLY WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THE HOME-WORLD OF GALACTUS DIS-SOLVES INTO PURE, BRILLIANT **ENERGY**-- SIGNALLING THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THEIR LIVES!

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COVER YOUR EYES! LOOK AWAY, OR YOU'LL BE BLINDED!
BIG DEAL! WE'RE GOING TO DIE IN SECONDS ANYWAY! WHO WANTS TO SEE IT COMING?

HIGH ABOVE, THE LAST REMAINS OF THE ENORMOUS WORLD-SHIP ARE TRANSFORMED, SWELLING THE NIMBUS OF RAW ENERGY WHICH BILLOWS IN THE VOID...

AND IN THE CENTER OF THE SEETHING ENERGY-CLOUD, GALACTUS PREPARES TO DRINK DEEP OF THE AWE-SOME POWER AROUND HIM...
BUT, SUDDENLY, THE ENERGY IS RIPPED AWAY FROM HIM!

BELOW...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I-I'M NOT SURE!
THE ENERGY--! IT'S MOVING! THAT WAY--

--TOWARD *DOOMBASE!*

THIS *CAN'T* BE DOCTOR DOOM'S DOING! WE LEFT HIM IMPRISONED ALONG WITH THE OTHER BAD GUYS!

WHO ELSE, THEN, TORCH?

--AND, SPLIT SECONDS LATER...
INCREDIBLE! SOMEHOW DOOM ESCAPED THE CELL WE LOCKED HIM IN... AND CONSTRUCTED THAT FANTASTIC MACHINE...
...AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S USING IT TO DRAW ALL THAT ENERGY INTO HIMSELF!

I'D BETTER GET BACK AND TELL CAPTAIN AMERICA... AND MISTER FANTASTIC! THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS!
CAPTAIN MARVEL! STAND FAST! THIS IS PROFESSOR X!

I AM TELEPATHICALLY LINKING YOUR MIND TO REED RICHARDS'S, ALLOWING HIM TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES!
HE IS BEST QUALIFIED TO INTERPRET FOR US THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENTS YOU ARE WITNESSING!

IT IS FINISHED! THE POWER IS MINE!

WHAT-- WHAT IS HAPPENING?

BY THE DARK GODS! MY LEAST WHIM ALTERS THE WORLD AROUND ME! SUCH IS THE POWER COURSING WITHIN ME THAT STONE AND STEEL ARE WISPS OF NOTHING WHICH BEND AND TRANSFORM IN SLAVISH OBEDIENCE TO MY MEREST STRAY THOUGHT!
I MUST CONTROL THIS... SEPARATE THE GOSSAMER MATERIAL WORLD FROM MY ALL-POWERFUL THOUGHTS... BEFORE REALITY AND MY IMAGINATION BECOME AS ONE--HOPELESSLY INTERMINGLED!

AH!

WHAT NOW?
MY SENSES HAVE EXPANDED! OF COURSE! OMNISCIENCE IS OF NECESSITY A COROLLARY OF OMNIPOTENCE! A... SIDE EFFECT!

I-- I FEEL EVERY CELL... EVERY ATOM! THEIR TEXTURES--! THEIR QUIVERING MOVEMENTS--! THE DANCE OF INFINITY...

MORE! NO PHYSICAL BARRIER CAN RESTRAIN MY SENSES! I SEE-- NO, IT IS FAR BEYOND SEEING --I ENCOMPASS ALL THAT EXISTS AROUND ME!
I POSSESS MORE SENSES THAN BEFORE--! AN EMPATHY...
THOSE IMPRISONED IN THE DUNGEONS-- I KNOW THEIR EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY SECRET, EVERY SMOULDERING, GNAWING DESIRE!
HOW THEY SEETHE WITH HUNGERS AND WANTS! HAH! EACH OF THEIR DESIRES IS MORE TANGIBLE TO ME THAN MORTAR AND STONE!

VICTOR VON DOOM, TO WHOM THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF LESSER MEN WERE EVER OPEN BOOKS, NOW PLUMBS THE BLACK DEPTHS OF MEN'S SOULS WITH A GLANCE!

FOR NOW...I AM... AWARE! AWARE OF ALL THINGS...INCLUDING...
...A SPY!
UH-OH!

AT THAT MOMENT...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE MIND-LINK HAS BEEN CUT OFF!
THAT'S NOT GOOD! CAPTAIN MARVEL'S IN TROUBLE!
QUICK! TO THE X-MEN'S SHIP!

BUT...
THAT THING ISN'T FLYING ANYWHERE! THOSE BOULDERS MUST'VE BEEN THROWN ONTO IT DURING THE BATTLE WITH GALACTUS!
AND OUR SHIP WAS WRECKED, TOO! WHAT'S PLAN "B"?

THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN TRAVEL FAST, HEAD FOR DOOMBASE AND AID CAPTAIN MARVEL! TAKE WHAT-EVER ACTION AGAINST DOOM YOU DEEM NECESSARY! THOR WILL BE IN COMMAND!
NO! WAIT! IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DIVIDE OUR FORCES! EVERYONE INTO THE SHIP!
I SEE WHAT MAGNETO IS THINKING! PLEASE DO AS HE SAYS!

THIS THING'S REALLY DEAD! EVEN THE LIGHTS ARE OUT! EVERY POWER CELL WAS SMASHED!
NO MATTER! I AM THE POWER!

RRRRUMMMMMMMMMMMMBLE
IT'S MOVING! WE'RE AIRBORNE!
UNBELIEVABLE!
AFTER ALL WE'VE SEEN LATELY? ARE YOU KIDDIN'?

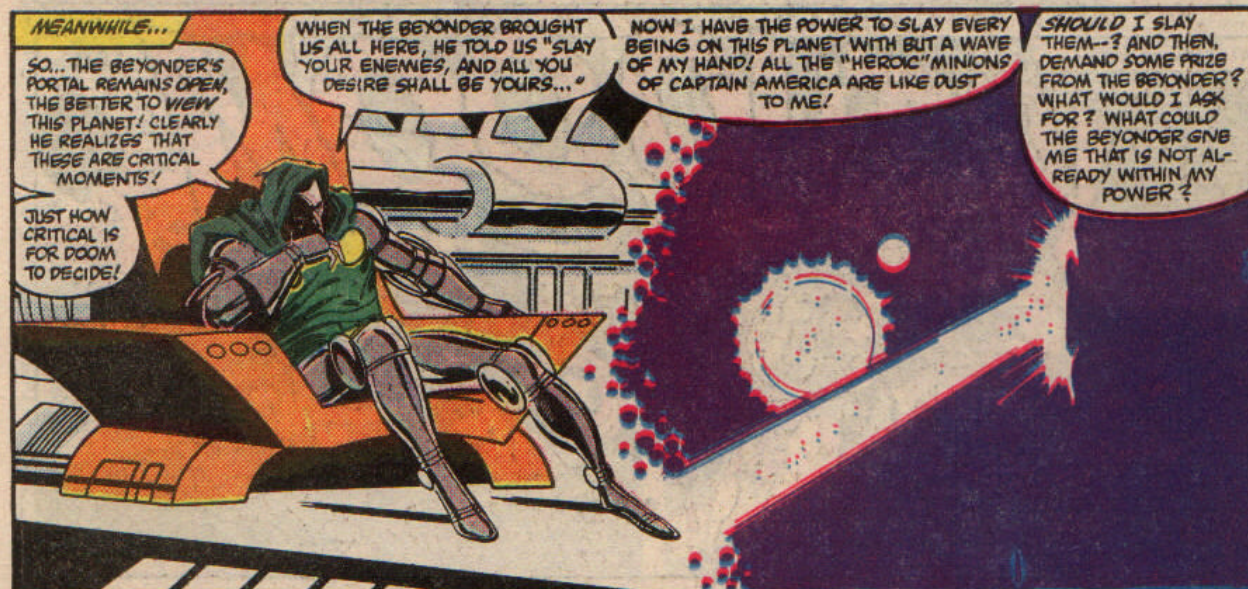
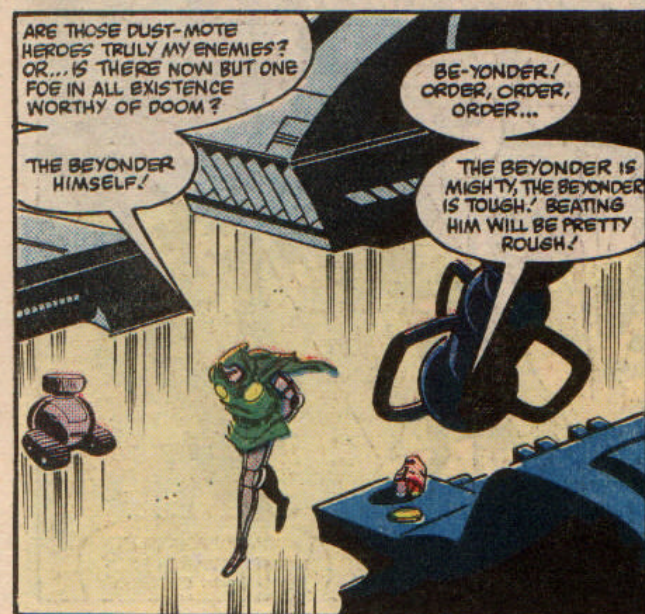
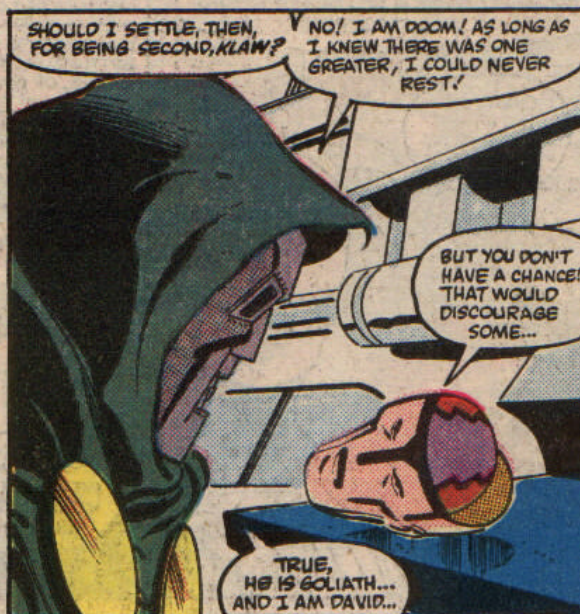
WOW! THIS CRATE NEVER FLEW THIS FAST UNDER ITS OWN POWER! RIGHT, CYKE?
HARD TO TELL, NIGHT-CRAWLER!

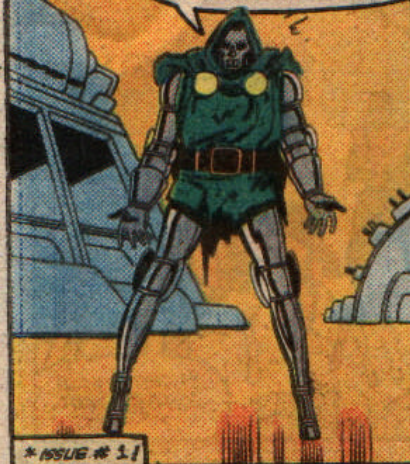
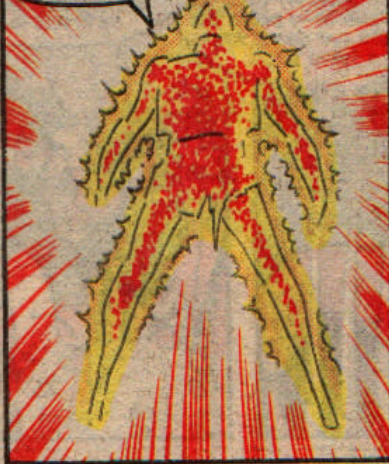
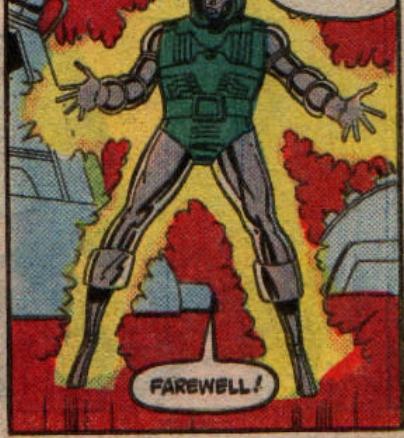
AMAZING! LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO LIVE UP TO YOUR OWN HYPE, MAGNETO!
I GATHER, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THAT YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT I FAIL! OR...WAS THAT REMARK, PERHAPS, INTENDED TO BE A "WELL DONE" FOR WHICH I SHOULD HUMBLY THANK YOU.
AT EASE, MISTER!

ALLIES SHOULD BE "AT EASE" WITH ONE ANOTHER! WHAT TROUBLES YOU? IS IT MY AWESOME POWER? ARE YOU JEALOUS? AFRAID? OR IS IT MERELY BECAUSE I AM A MUTANT THAT YOU ARE NOT "AT EASE"?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THE FACT THAT YOU TRIED TO KILL ALL OF US HERE SEVERAL TIMES AS PART OF VARIOUS EVIL SCHEMES FOR WORLD CONQUEST IS PRETTY HARD TO FORGET ENTIRELY!
BUT PROFESSOR XAVIER VOUCHED FOR YOU, SO I'M ALLOWING YOU TO BE AMONG US! I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT HIM OR THE REST OF THE MUTANTS... THE X-MEN!
MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO, BUB!
STAY OUT OF THIS WOLVERINE!
NOT A CHANCE!

WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, CAP'N, IS THAT WE MUTANTS ARE AT WAR! ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE!
YOU, WITH YOUR HIGH-FALUTIN' IDEALS--YOU'RE THE CHAMPION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, FIGHTIN' FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE--

--BUT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN KIND! FOR HUMANS... FOR REGULAR AMERICANS! BUT YOU JUST STAND BY WHILE MUTANTS ARE BEING PERSECUTED, DON'T YOU? WHEN HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS?

SOME OF THE GOD-FEARIN' AMERICANS YOU PROTECT HATE MUTANTS--AND WHEN THEY COME AFTER US, IT'S A LOT LIKE HOW THE NAZIS WENT AFTER THE JEWS!
XAVIER WANTS US TO HIDE... TRY TO HELP HUMANITY... EARN ACCEPTANCE... FIT IN!
BUT WHEN THEY'RE THREATENIN' YOU AND YOURS, IT'S EASY TO PLAY IT LIKE MAGNETO DID--! FIGHT BACK--! TAKE THE OFFENSIVE--! DRIVE 'EM INTO THE SEA IF YOU HAVE TO...
NOW, THOUGH, PROFESSOR X HAS CONVINCED MAGGIE TO LAY OFF... STOP TAKING THE EXPEDIENT ROUTE...STOP USING NOBLE ENDS TO JUSTIFY VIOLENT MEANS... AN' STILL YOU WON'T LAY OFF! SORT OF MAKES ME WONDER IF MAGNETO WAS RIGHT.
NOTHING JUSTIFIES TERRORISM... OR MURDER!
TERRORISTS--! THAT'S WHAT THE BIG ARMY CALLS THE LITTLE ARMY!
I USED TO HAVE SOME RESPECT FOR YOU...

MEANWHILE...
SO... THE BEYONDER'S PORTAL REMAINS OPEN, THE BETTER TO VIEW THIS PLANET! CLEARLY HE REALIZES THAT THESE ARE CRITICAL MOMENTS!
JUST HOW CRITICAL IS FOR DOOM TO DECIDE!
WHEN THE BEYONDER BROUGHT US ALL HERE, HE TOLD US "SLAY YOUR ENEMIES, AND ALL YOU DESIRE SHALL BE YOURS..."
NOW I HAVE THE POWER TO SLAY EVERY BEING ON THIS PLANET WITH BUT A WAVE OF MY HAND! ALL THE "HEROIC" MINIONS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA ARE LIKE DUST TO ME!
SHOULD I SLAY THEM--? AND THEN, DEMAND SOME PRIZE FROM THE BEYONDER? WHAT WOULD I ASK FOR? WHAT COULD THE BEYONDER GIVE ME THAT IS NOT ALREADY WITHIN MY POWER?

ARE THOSE DUST-MOTE HEROES TRULY MY ENEMIES? OR... IS THERE NOW BUT ONE FOE IN ALL EXISTENCE WORTHY OF DOOM?
THE BEYONDER HIMSELF!
BE-YONDER! ORDER, ORDER, ORDER...
THE BEYONDER IS MIGHTY, THE BEYONDER IS TOUGH! BEATING HIM WILL BE PRETTY ROUGH!

SHOULD I SETTLE, THEN, FOR BEING SECOND, KLAW?
NO! I AM DOOM! AS LONG AS I KNEW THERE WAS ONE GREATER, I COULD NEVER REST!
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE! THAT WOULD DISCOURAGE SOME...
TRUE, HE IS GOLIATH... AND I AM DAVID...

DAVID HAD A SLING...AND KNEW A WEAKNESS OF HIS FOE'S WHICH HE MIGHT EXPLOIT!
I KNOW SOMETHING OF THE BEYONDER--FOR, WHEN FIRST HE SPIRITED US TO THIS WORLD, I ATTEMPTED TO INVADE HIS PORTAL AND WAS BRUTALLY REPELLED--BUT NOT BEFORE MY ARMOR'S COMPUTERS ANALYZED HIS ENERGIES!*
*ISSUE #1!

A FEW SIMPLE ADJUSTMENTS, BASED UPON THAT DATA--AND BORROWING SOME TECHNOLOGY FROM THE DEVICE GALACTUS MEANT TO USE TO ABSORB THE ENERGY OF THIS PLANET.
--AND I HAVE MY "SLING" CONCEALED IN THE BREASTPLATE OF MY ARMOR!

I MUST GET VERY CLOSE, INDEED, TO THE BEYONDER IF I HOPE TO USE IT, HOWEVER--WITHIN AN ARM'S LENGTH.
BUT THEN, DAVID HAD TO BRAVE THE GIANT'S SPEARS TO DRAW WITHIN RANGE! AND NOW, KLAW, I GO TO... "WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH..."
FAREWELL!

AT THAT MOMENT...
KATHOOOM

HE'S GONE! DOOM IS NO LONGER WITHIN THIS STRUCTURE!
CHECK ON THE OTHER PRISONERS! QUICK!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE DUNGEON, MANY LEVELS BELOW...
EVERYBODY'S STILL BOTTLED UP... EXCEPT DOOM, OF COURSE!
BUT I DON'T SEE KLAW ANYWHERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, TORCH! WE'D BETTER START SEARCHING! THIS IS A B-I-I-G FORT!
SPIDER-MAN, I THINK PROFESSOR X MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRACE HIM TELEPATHICALLY!
IF THAT'S POSSIBLE, NIGHTCRAWLER, LET'S HEAD BACK UPSTAIRS!

AND, IN THE LAB...
WHA-WHAT ON--! OHH!

WHAT IS IT, SPIDER-WOMAN ?
CAPTAIN MARVEL--! SHE'S... THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG!

DOOM MUST HAVE FORCIBLY CHANGED HER TO HER LIGHT FORM... AND FROZEN HER THAT WAY! SHE'S BECOME A LIVING HOLOGRAM!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE LADY OF LIGHT! LIGHT! ITE, ITE, ITE...
NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU MISTER FANTASTIC!
IT'S KLAW! OR... A PIECE OF HIM, ANYWAY!

HMM! I WOULD GUESS THAT DOOM SLICED AWAY MOST OF YOUR BODY AND USED IT TO MAKE THE ENERGY-LENSES FOR HIS POWER-ABSORBING DEVICE! CORRECT?
IT DIDN'T HURT AT ALL, BECAUSE I'M MADE OF SOLID SOUND! SOUND! OUND! OUND! OUND!
WHERE IS DOOM? WHAT IS HE UP TO?

KRAKABOOOM!
HOLEE MOTHER O' PEARL!

DOOM? OH, HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK! HE'S OFF USING SOME GADGET IN HIS CHESTPLATE TO STEAL ALL THE BEYONDER'S POWER AND CONQUER HIM!
THE BEYONDER?! HE MUST BE INSANE!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY WE GET ALONG!
AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE PAST THE PORTAL OF THE BEYONDER...
STOP! YOU CANNOT APPROACH ME!
THEN APPROACH ME, COWARD--ON YOUR KNEES, IF YOU HAVE KNEES! COME! CRINGE BEFORE YOUR MASTER! GROVEL BEFORE DOOM!

WHATEVER'S GOING ON OUT THERE, IT'S SHAKING THIS PLACE TO PIECES! AND THIS FORT COULD WITHSTAND A DIRECT HIT FROM AN H-BOMB!
SPIDER-MAN! THING! GET DOWN TO THE SICK BAY AND BRING SHE-HULK UP HERE! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO NEED EVERY SINGLE HAND SOON, WOUNDED OR NOT!
AH! THIS MONITOR'S STILL WORKING!
THERE'S THE BEYONDER'S PORTAL--DEFINITELY THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE! SHOCKWAVES EMANATING FROM THERE ARE CAUSING UPHEAVALS IN THE VERY FABRIC OF THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM FOR A HUNDRED CUBIC PARSECS!
ONLY VIOLENT MOVEMENT OF ENERGY ON AN UNIMAGINABLY GARGANTUAN SCALE COULD CAUSE THIS! THEY'RE FIRING FORCE-BOLTS AT EACH OTHER, PERHAPS...

IF ONLY THIS EQUIPMENT WERE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SEE INSIDE THE PORTAL!
CAN'T YOU SOUP IT UP, REED--? LIKE YOU DID MY ARMOR?

THERE'S NO TIME! NO MATTER, THOUGH! IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO LOCATE GALACTUS SO I CAN BRING HIM BACK HERE... HELP HIM... REVITALIZE HIM!
WHAT--?! AIN'T WE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE? WHAT IF HE TRIES TO KILL US AGAIN?

HE MAY... BUT IF DOOM SHOULD GIVE UP HIS ATTACK ON THE BEYONDER AND TURN HIS ATTENTION TO US AGAIN... THE ONLY WAY WE'D STAND A CHANCE IS WITH THE POWER OF GALACTUS ON OUR SIDE!
THERE HE IS! NOW IF WE CAN JUST LOCK A TRACTOR BEAM ON THOSE COORDINATES!

MEANWHILE...
YEOW! ANOTHER SHOCKWAVE!
CAREFUL, THING!

GOOD THING I'M FAST! THE LAST THING SHE-HULK NEEDS IS BEING DROPPED ON HER HEAD RIGHT NOW!
AW, I KNEW YOU WUZ GONNA CATCH HER!
HEY! REED--! HOLEE--!
HANG ON, STRETCHO! I'M COMIN'!
AHH!

REED? REED! C'MON, BIG BRAIN, SAY SOMETHIN' COMPLICATED SO'S I KNOW YER OKAY!
EASY, REED! DON'T TRY TO MOVE, MAN!
C-CAN'T CATCH MY... BREATH...

SHE-HULK'S STILL WEAK, BUT OKAY, I THINK! SHE'LL BE ON HER FEET AGAIN AFTER SHE RESTS A WHILE MORE!
SO--! WHAT'S ON TEEVEE, HULK?
WORLDWIDE DESTRUCTION, I'M AFRAID! SHE-HULK'S CONDITION, AND OURS, TOO, MAY SOON BE ACADEMIC!
HULK! PLEASE--CAN YOU FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE WE ONCE OCCUPIED?

CERTAINLY! THERE! LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE FARED NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD!
THAT'S ZSAJI--THE HEALER! SHE--SHE'S HURT!
ZSAJI--! IF ONLY I WERE THERE TO BE WITH YOU NOW!

BUT...IT IS NOT I SHE WOULD WANT! IT IS THE HUMAN TORCH SHE LOVES! I MUST...TELL HIM...
JOHNNY STORM! I HAVE BAD NEWS! ZSAJI... HAS BEEN INJURED!
HUH?

I-- I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR A CHIPPIE NOW! REED'S HURT!
I'LL SEND HER A CARD LATER!
CHIPPIE? CHIPPIE--?!

KABOOOOM!
ANOTHER SHOCK--! THE WORST YET!
STAY ALERT FOR FALLING DEBRIS! COLOSSUS! IRON MAN! THOR! STAND BY TO BRACE WALLS--AND SHIELD THE MORE VULNERABLE!

SHRIEKING WINDS PROTEST THE AGONY OF A PLANET BATTERED AND DISTORTED BY FORCES BEYOND COMPREHENSION--

--WHILE THE SUN IT ORBITS SEEMS ON THE VERGE OF BEING BLOWN OUT LIKE A CANDLE!

AND, IN THE REALM OF THE BEYONDER...
IS THERE NO END TO HIS STRENGTH?
HE DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES HIS ONSLAUGHT WITH EACH PASSING SECOND! I MUST DRAW NEARER, STILL, AND YET...
ALL MY POWER IS NOT ENOUGH! MY THRUST HAS BEEN BLUNTED... MY ENERGY EBBS... MY DEFENSES CRUMBLE!
IT IS HOPELESS! I CANNOT REACH HIM-- ANY MORE THAN THE ANVIL CAN RISE TO STRIKE THE HAMMER!

A WAY! THERE MUST BE...
ARRGHH!

TH-THUS--? THUS FALLS DOOM?
NO! NO!
WHAT IS PAIN TO ONE SUCH AS I? I--I WILL SHUT IT OUT. OTHER MEN FALL PREY TO THE VERY SPECTRE OF DEATH... WHEN HER COLD EMBRACE SEEMS IMMINENT... THEY SIMPLY SWOON INTO HER ARMS! BUT I... I AM DOOM!
I--I DENY YOU, DEATH! VICTOR VON DOOM MUST NOT DIE!

SUDDENLY, A STILLNESS SWEEPS THROUGH THE FABRIC OF REALITY-- A TROUGH BETWEEN WAVES OF CHAOS. ON THE BATTLEWORLD, THE REMAINS OF DOOMBASE SHIVER AND SETTLE.
IN THE LAB...
EVERYONE-- BEWARE! I SENSE SOMEONE-- OR SOMETHING APPROACHING! SOMETHING... AWESOME!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, PROFESSOR X! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING BAZONKERS!
WHOEVER'S COMING IS DANGEROUS TO BEAT THE BAND!
UH-OH!
GREETINGS! I AM DOCTOR DOOM!... THOUGH I AM FAR MORE THAN THE BEING YOU ONCE KNEW! INDEED, I HAVE TRANSCENDED MORTALITY-- AND YET, I AM YOUR CHAMPION-- FIGHTING FOR YOUR SAKES!
I AM ABOUT TO CRUSH THE BEYONDER!
THE BEYONDER, IN HIS COSMIC ARROGANCE ABDUCTED US ALL AND BROUGHT US HERE TO DO BATTLE FOR HIS AMUSEMENT! "SLAY YOUR ENEMIES...!" HE SAID-- BUT IN TRUTH, HE IS THE REAL ENEMY!
WHILE HE CAN REACH US, OUR UNIVERSE IS NOT SAFE FROM HIS MANIPULATIONS! HE MUST BE UTTERLY DEFEATED AND SEALED AWAY BEYOND THE PORTAL FOREVER--OR DESTROYED!
IN THE NAME OF ALL WHO EXIST IN OUR UNIVERSE, I, DOOM, HAVE DARED TO ATTACK THE BEYONDER!
THE BATTLE HAS GONE WELL. EVEN NOW, THE BEYONDER CRINGES IN TERROR, MARSHALLING HIS FAILING STRENGTH AGAINST MY FINAL ASSAULT! HENCE, THIS LULL IN THE STRIFE--

--WHICH HAS ALLOWED ME TO APPEAR TO YOU AND OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO SHARE IN MY GLORIOUS CONQUEST. LEND ME YOUR POWER! HASTEN HIS CERTAIN DEFEAT!
COME! WHO WILL JOIN ME AGAINST OUR COMMON FOE? YOU HAVE BUT TO TOUCH MY HAND! WHO SHALL BE FIRST?
TO HIM, AFTER OUR VICTORY, I SHALL GRANT POWER BEYOND MEASURE--WITH WHICH TO FURTHER HIS NOBLE PURPOSES, OF COURSE!
YOU KNOW I SPEAK THE TRUTH! YOU FEEL IT, DO YOU NOT? COME!

TIME SEEMS TO TREAD WATER AS MAGNETO LUNGES FORWARD. THE OTHERS STAND TRANSFIXED...
YES! YES!

HE REACHES OUT TO GRASP DOOM'S SPECTRAL HAND--
--BUT THEN, HE HESITATES. HIS EYES FIND XAVIER'S, AND FOR AN ENDLESS SPLIT-SECOND, HE TREMBLES ON THE BRINK...

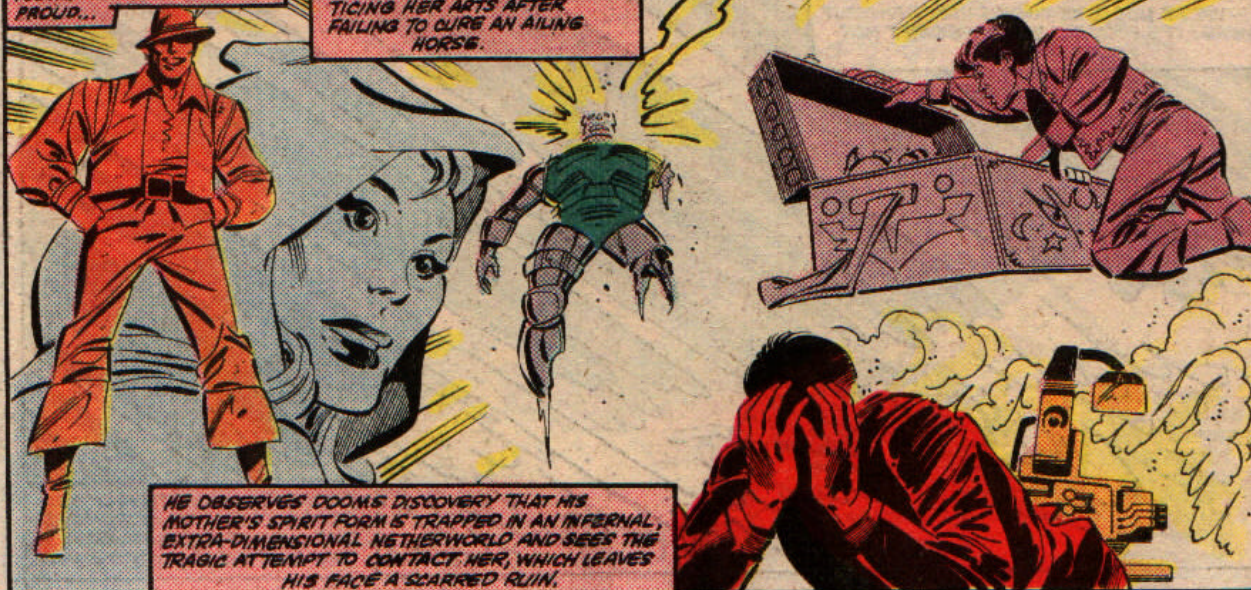
THEN, ABRUPTLY...
STOP HIM!
HOLD HIM, IRON MAN!
NO SWEAT, HAWKEYE! HE AIN'T GONNA REACH OUT AND TOUCH NOBODY UNLESS HE CAN FIND A PAY PHONE!

C-CANNOT MAINTAIN...
HUMAN SCUM--! YOU DARE?!
FLATTERY WON'T GET YOU NOWHERE, TURKEY! NO WAY WE'RE LETTIN' YOU HELP DOOM!
YEAH! I DON'T BUY THAT BULL ABOUT HIM FIGHTING FOR OUR SAKES--NO MATTER HOW SINCERE HE SAYS IT, HE ISN'T THE TYPE TO CHANGE HIS SPOTS --AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, NEITHER ARE YOU!
UNHAND ME!

HEY, X-MEN! DID YOU SEE YOUR BUDDY HERE, TRY TO THROW IN WITH DOCTOR DOOM? THE SAME DOCTOR DOOM WHO ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO ACED CAPTAIN MARVEL!
DOES THIS RAT HAVE TO MURDER SOMEBODY RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, OR WHAT? WHAT'S IT TAKE TO CONVINCE YOU HE'S POND SLIME--AND WE SHOULD LOCK HIM UP?
AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE THAT... MAYBE WE OUGHT TO START WONDERING ABOUT YOU!

THAT'S ENOUGH, HAWKEYE! WE WERE ALL TEMPTED! I SUSPECT THAT DOOM WAS EXERTING SOME SORT OF MENTAL CONTROL--AND MAYBE MAGNETO GOT THE BIGGEST DOSE!
THE WAY I SAW IT, HE STOPPED HIMSELF BEFORE YOU JUMPED HIM! THAT MEANS HE DID NOTHING WRONG! HE'S INNOCENT!
AS FOR WHATEVER HE MIGHT HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, WE AGREED TO SET ALL THAT ASIDE FOR THE DURATION WHEN WE FINALLY ACCEPTED HIM AS AN ALLY!
AND BESIDES--

"--WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE! IT'S POSSIBLE WE'LL REGRET NOT HELPING DOOM!"
THE LAST, DESPERATE PLOY HAS FAILED... AND NOW, AS IF ON CUE, THE ONSLAUGHT BEGINS AGAIN. THIS TIME THERE IS NO DEFENSE.

LONG MINUTES PASS, AND THEN, FINALLY...
...SILENCE.
SLOWLY, THE VICTOR APPROACHES.
GATHERING UP THE SAVAGED REMAINS, THE BEYONDER BEGINS TO PROBE--
-- SOON FOCUSING UPON THE APPARENT CENTER OF ITS FALLEN FOE'S BEING!
STIMULATION OF CERTAIN ELECTRO-CHEMICAL REACTIONS ELICITS A PARADE OF IMAGES, DANCING IN THE MIND'S EYE OF DOOM. THE BEYONDER PAYS CLOSE HEED--
-- AND SEES UNFOLDED BEFORE HIM THE LIFE-JOURNEY OF THIS CARRION HE HOLDS. HE SEES DOOM AS HE REMEMBERS HIMSELF FROM YEARS PAST, A GYPSY YOUTH, HANDSOME AND PROUD...
PROMINENT IS THE HAUNTING VISAGE OF DOOM'S MOTHER, THE HEALER, MAKER OF POTIONS-- CRUELLY PUT TO DEATH WHEN DOOM WAS BUT AN INFANT, SLAIN AT THE COMMAND OF A PETTY OFFICIAL FOR PRACTICING HER ARTS AFTER FAILING TO CURE AN AILING HORSE.
HE WITNESSES THE YOUNG MAN'S FINDING OF HIS MOTHER'S HIDDEN CACHE OF SORCEROUS AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETS AND THE GROWTH OF HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCES BOTH PHYSICAL AND SUPRA-NORMAL.
HE OBSERVES DOOM'S DISCOVERY THAT HIS MOTHER'S SPIRIT FORM IS TRAPPED IN AN INFERNAL, EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL NETHERWORLD AND SEES THE TRAGIC ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HER, WHICH LEAVES HIS FACE A SCARRED RUIN.

FINALLY, HE BEHOLDS WHAT THESE EVENTS HAVE WROUGHT IN THE DARK REACHES OF THE HEART AND MIND OF DOOM AS THE IMAGES CHANGE -- REVEALING THE DESIRES WHICH RULE THIS SHATTERED MAN.
POWER! AS THOUGH USURPING CONTROL OVER THE DESTINIES OF OTHER MEN WOULD SERVE AS VENGEANCE AGAINST THE CRUELTY HEAPED UPON HIM BY FATE.
FREEDOM FOR HIS MOTHER'S SPIRIT, SIEZED AND HELD BY THE DEMONIC MEPHISTO IN HIS FIERY DIMENSION, AS PAYMENT FOR ARCANE KNOWLEDGE GRANTED TO HER.
RESTORATION OF HIS RAVAGED FACE -- THE UNDOING OF THE HORROR HE HAS EVER KEPT HIDDEN BEHIND HIS GRIM IRON MASK.
FOR LONG MOMENTS, THE BEYONDER REFLECTS UPON THIS THING, DESIRE. HE PONDERS THE PASSION, THE BITTERNESS, THE HATRED WITH WHICH IT SEETHES-- THE MYSTERY OF IT.

BUT THERE IS MUCH ELSE TO INVESTIGATE... AND PERHAPS HE CAN LEARN MORE OF THIS EMPTINESS--WHICH--DRIVES BY EXPLORING OTHER ORGANS.
THE BILATERAL SYMMETRY OF HIS BEATEN FOE, THOUGH DAMAGED, IS STILL EVIDENT. THE BEYONDER STRIPS THE BODY, AND LEAVING ONE SIDE INTACT FOR COMPARISON, BEGINS DISSECTION.
THUS, THE MASK IS PULLED AWAY--

-- AND AS THE ICY VACUUM OF THE BEYONDER'S REALM WASHES ACROSS HALF OF DOOM'S BARED FACE--
--HE AWAKENS...
...AWAKENS FEELING HALF OF HIS BODY BEING PULLED APART...PEELED AWAY IN LAYERS...

THE AGONY, THE NAUSEA, AND THE HORROR ARE BEYOND IMAGINING. UTTER DEATH, ONLY SPLIT-SECONDS AWAY, OFFERS AN ESCAPE, WHICH ANY OTHER MORTAL WOULD GRATEFULLY ACCEPT...
...BUT HE IS DOOM!
THE BREASTPLATE HOVERS NEAR ... AND THE BEYONDER HIMSELF IS CLOSE AT HAND! HIS REMAINING ARM QUIVERS WEAKLY, ITS BATTERED FLESH LOATHE TO RESPOND--

--BUT HE IS DOOM!
AS HIS VISION BLURS, AND THE EBONY WARMTH CLOSES AROUND HIS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE FIGHTS ON, REACHING, GROPING...

KRAKABOOOOM
NIGHTCRAWLER! TELEPORT OVER TO THE PROFESSOR! HELP HIM AVOID THE DEBRIS!
ANOTHER SHOCK!
THE BIGGEST YET! THE WHOLE PLACE IS COMING DOWN!
AT ONCE, CYCLOPS!
BAMF

EVERYBODY OUTSIDE! NO MATTER HOW BAD IT IS THERE, IT'S BETTER THAN HERE! THIS PLACE IS GOING FROM SHELTER TO TOMB IN A HURRY!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CAP?
GO! I'LL FOLLOW IN A MINUTE!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE DUNGEON...
GET US OUTTA HERE!
I'M TRYING, BUT THE STRUCTURE'S SHIFTED! THE DOORS ARE JAMMED--BUT I'LL FIND A WAY! HANG ON!

NEED HELP?
YES! HURRY. I'LL COVER YOU!

GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
I WASN'T GOING TO LET THESE MEN DIE IN CAGES, NO MATTER WHAT THEY DONE OR WHOSE SIDE THEY'RE ON!
MAGNETO WAS ON HIS WAY DOWN HERE, TOO! HE'S GOT A THING ABOUT FOLKS BEING TRAPPED AND LEFT TO DIE LIKE RATS... EVEN HUMANS.
BUT I TOLD HIM I'D TAKE THIS DETAIL WHILE HE GOT THE OTHER COUPLE BAD GUYS OUT OF THE SICK BAY!
SHRAKT
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE!

EVEN THESE MEN HAVE RIGHTS!
ALL RIGHT, MOVE IT! GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT ANY OF US WILL SURVIVE THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, BUT WE ALL STAND A BETTER CHANCE OUTSIDE! GO!
WE HEAR YA, PAL!

AND...
JUST IN TIME! THAT WHOLE SECTION OF THE FORT IS COLLAPSING!
KEEP MOVING! IT'S A LONG WAY TO OPEN AIR!

DON'T TAKE THIS WRONG... BUT YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR! I'M AN ATTACKER AN' YOU'RE A DEFENDER-- BUT WE'RE BOTH SOLDIERS!
I'M BEGINNIN' TO THINK YOU GOT ROOM IN YOUR HIGH-FALUTIN' IDEALS FOR ALL PEOPLE... DON'TCHA--? EVEN IF THEY'RE MUTANTS!
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE PEOPLE!

OUTSIDE...
HERE THEY COME! THEY'RE OKAY!
YEAH, BUT THIS PLANET ISN'T! I FIGURE IT'S JUST ABOUT TO SHAKE ITSELF INTO SPACE GRAVEL-- AND THEN WHERE WILL WE BE?
PART O' THAT GREAT DRIVEWAY IN THE SKY, I S'POZE!

HEY! IT--IT STOPPED!
SUDDENLY, IT'S ALL QUIET AGAIN! WHAT GIVES?!

LOOK! UP THERE!
THAT LIGHT! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S COMING CLOSER!
BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

CAP, YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE, MAN? DON'T YOUR JAW EVER GO SLACK? AREN'T YOU EVER JUST TOO FLABBERGASTED TO SHOUT ORDERS?

QUIET, HAWKEYE! STAND READY! IT'S ALMOST ON TOP OF US!
SOMETHING'S FORMING INSIDE OF IT!

THE BEYONDER IS DEAD! NOW, THE SUPREME BEING IN THE UNIVERSE...
...IS DOOM!
C-CAP! MY GOSH, CAP... NOW WHAT?

THIS IS GOING TO BE THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES!
ON MY COMMAND, ATTACK! AND DON'T STOP... DON'T LET UP... NO MATTER WHAT!
WE MUST FIND A WAY... WE WILL FIND A WAY TO WIN!
READY...!

HOLD! STAY YOUR HAND, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
ABSORBING THE BEYONDER'S VAST ENERGIES CAUSED MY FORM TO SWELL TO ENORMOUS PROPORTIONS-- BUT I AM WHAT I WISH TO BE NOW!
LET ME, THEN, RETURN TO HUMAN PROPORTIONS SO THAT WE MAY MORE EASILY SPEAK... FACE TO FACE!
FIRST, KNOW YOU THESE THINGS...
THE BEYONDER NO LONGER EXISTS... AND DOOM HAS BEEN REBORN! THUS, HAVE TWO EVILS COME TO AN END!
THERE IS NO ENEMY LEFT TO FIGHT!
THE WAR IS OVER!
NONETHELESS, WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS ON SALE IN THIRTY DAYS!!